

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A method for performing a bypass procedure in a digestive system  
2       comprising  
3           isolating an upper stomach portion of the stomach of a patient;  
4           introducing an anvil adapted for use with the anastomosis instrument through a  
5       side region of the upper stomach portion;  
6           resecting the bowel to define a resected bowel portion; and  
7           connecting the resected bowel portion and the upper stomach portion with a  
8       circular anastomosis instrument.
  
- 1       2.       The method of claim 1, wherein isolating an upper stomach portion is conducted  
2       by utilizing a linear stapler, and wherein the upper stomach portion is cut such that a  
3       protrusion is formed on a side region of said upper stomach portion.
  
- 1       3.       The method of claim 1, wherein introducing and anvil comprises the insertion of a  
2       surgical instrument through an opening in a bottom region of said upper stomach portion,  
3       wherein said flexible body portion has a tip adapted to releasably attach said anvil, and  
4       wherein said flexible body portion is capable of being roticulated.
  
- 1       4.       The method of claim 3, wherein said anvil is attached to said tip and then carried  
2       through the upper stomach portion and positioned to rest in said opening.
  
- 1       5.       The method of claim 4, wherein said connecting step comprises juxtaposing said  
2       bowel portion to said bottom region of said upper stomach portion by actuating a circular  
3       anastomosis stapler instrument, wherein said anvil is passed through said bottom region

4 of said upper stomach portion and said bowel portion during said actuating of said  
5 circular anastomosis stapler instrument, thereby creating an anastomosis.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein said protrusion on said side region of said upper  
2 stomach portion is excised and sealed after said anvil is carried through said upper  
3 stomach portion.

1 7. A surgical instrument designed for manipulation of a surgical component  
2 comprising a cylindrical body portion comprising a proximal end and a distal end;  
3 a flexible body portion extending from distal end, said flexible body portion being  
4 designed to rotate and articulate and said flexible body portion comprising a tip adapted  
5 for releasably attaching said surgical component; and a handle assembly attached to or  
6 integral with said proximal end.

1 8. The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said handle assembly comprises an  
2 actuator whereby the moving of said actuator controls the articulating movement of said  
3 flexible body portion.

1 9. The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said handle assembly comprises an  
2 adjusting knob that controls the rotating movement of the flexible body portion.

1 10. The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said handle assembly comprises a  
2 pivotal handle lever that controls the release of said surgical component.

1 11. The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said surgical component is an anvil of  
2 a circular anastomosis stapler.